

Sam Postlethwait: Nature Guide, Photographer



Sam could not be with us tonight but his son Robert Postlethwait is here on his behalf.

Celery Bog visitors learn about native species when they hike the footpath with nature lover and photographer Sam Postlethwait. What he captures with his lens, he shares in prints and postcards sold at the Lilly Nature Center to benefit the Celery Bog Fund. He also provides photographs for the city's website, Facebook page and newsletter.

Sam, a World War II veteran and Navy submarine officer, spent much of his life as an educator in the following capacities: a public school teacher in West Virginia, an instructor at the State

University of Iowa, a Professor of Biology at Purdue University, and Professor Emeritus of Biology for 26 years. Continuing to share his love for lifelong learning and nature with others, Sam dedicates much of his time volunteering at the Lilly Nature Center where he is currently working on producing DVDs detailing the history of the Celery Bog and Lilly Nature Center. He is also working on creating a trail plant identification book of plant photos.

Beside his current projects, Sam, who received volunteer of the year at the Lilly Nature Center, makes time to lead weekly trail walks, create poster displays for the nature center, provide memento items for visitors, and participate in special events. He is no stranger to giving and offering unconditional support towards those in need. In his 25 years as Chair of the Youth Services Committee for Kiwanis, Sam participated in the Diaper a Kid Day program for the Crisis Center, Terrific Kid Program with a local elementary school, Bring Up Grades program with a local middle school, and a teacher recognition program with numerous schools. He also was instrumental in surveying the needs and providing financial support for over 30 organizations that serve children in this community.

Sam and his wife, Sara, who sadly passed away in June, raised two sons, John and Robert. His heart is filled with love for the city of West Lafayette, nature, photography, and especially for his four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Thank you, Sam, for sharing your spirit and passion for life, living, and the beauty of nature with those that cross your path.